

**PATENT**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:

Silver, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/882,597

Filed: June 15, 2001

Confirmation No.: 8298

Group Art Unit: 2157

Examiner: Sall, El Hadji Malick

Docket No. 00148; 190252-1020

For: **Electronic Mail (E-Mail) Internet Appliance Methods and Systems**

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Statement of Reasons for Allowance includes some broad conclusory statements that may be viewed as an oversimplification of the examination issues, and if taken out of context, could give rise to an improper interpretation of the claims as well as the file history. For these reasons, Applicants provide the following comments.

First, Applicants assert that there are multiple grounds supporting allowance of the presently pending claims, including grounds in addition to those stated in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Accordingly, it should not be assumed that Applicants agree with the accuracy of the characterizations of the cited references and the claim elements in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Second, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. Section 282: "Each claim of a patent (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim." Thus, any dependent claims that are not addressed by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not rise or fall, when construed in terms of validity, with their

respective independent claims, but instead should be construed independently of their respective independent claims.

Third, the scope and validity of each claim (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) should be determined based upon the entire combination of elements/features/steps in each claim, as opposed to only the particular feature or features pointed out by the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

/afb/

**Anthony F. Bonner, Jr., Reg. No. 55,012**

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No:

**AT&T Legal Department – TKHR**

Attn: Patent Docketing

One AT&T Way

Room 2A-207

Bedminster, NJ 07921

Customer No.: **38823**